

REMARKS

I Disposition of Claims

Claims 1-12 are currently pending. Claim 9 has been amended to correct a minor informality, and thus for reasons unrelated to patentability. Support for the amended claim can be found throughout the specification, for example in the original claims. No new matter is added.

II Compliance with 35 USC 112

The Examiner has rejected Claim 9 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The Examiner asserts that the term “the guide projector” lacks antecedent basis. Claim 9 has been amended to use the term “the arcuate guide projection”, for which antecedent basis is provided in Claim 1. As a result, Claim 9 is now in compliance with 35 USC 112, and the rejection should be withdrawn.

III Novelty

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 7, 10 and 11 under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Fago (US6,569,127). In order to anticipate a claim, a reference must teach each element of the claim. As recited in Claim 1, the flange of the syringe barrel has an “arcuate guide projection extending outwardly from a front surface of the flange towards the dispensing end”. In contrast, the syringe barrel (50) disclosed in Fago has no projection extending from the front surface of the flange (54). The Examiner refers to structure (59), Figure 5, of Fago, as being an arcuate guide projection, but this structure is a channel (column 6, lines 34-37). In fact, for engagement with the injector, the flange (54) in Fago has a mechanism comprising channels (56a, 56b, 59a, and 59b, see column 6, lines 29-56) which does not project or extend towards the dispensing end. As such, the channel (59) of Fago cannot extend “outwardly from a front surface of the flange towards the dispensing end,” as recited by the claims. Therefore, as the cited reference does not disclose all the elements of the claim, the rejection should be withdrawn.

IV Non-obviousness

The Examiner has rejected Claims 2 and 4 under 35 USC 103 as being obvious over Fago in further view of Trull (5,947,929). In order to establish a case of *prima facie* obviousness, the cited references in combination must teach each element of the claims. Claims 2 and 4 are dependant on Claim 1. As discussed above, Fago does not anticipate Claim 1, as it does not teach “arcuate guide projection extending outwardly from a front surface of the flange towards

the dispensing end". The Examiner has cited Trull because she asserts that Trull discloses press projections (30) (Figure 2.) which "interact with the adapter assembly to permit engagement of the plunger with the driving head". Trull does not teach an arcuate guide projection. Therefore, the combination of Trull with Fago would not produce all the elements of the Claims, and the combined teachings of the references do not establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness.

Moreover, the configuration of Fago in which a channel is provided on the flange results in less material in contact with the barrel to hold the barrel. The channel mechanism in Fago's configuration must be designed to accommodate the tabs (60), which can be no larger than a fraction of the size of the flange. Thus, the configuration of Fago results in a relatively weak connection between the flange and the barrel. In contrast, a significant percentage of flange in the recited configuration, in which projections are provided on the flange, can be held in contact with the barrel. Nothing in the Trull or Fago references would suggest this advantage of Applicants' recited invention. This unexpected advantage further evidences the nonobviousness of the presently pending claims. Accordingly, withdrawal of the obviousness rejection is respectfully requested.

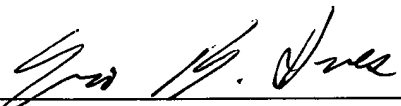
CONCLUSION

In view of the above, it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of all outstanding rejections are respectfully requested. Allowance of the claims at an early date is solicited. If any points remain that can be resolved by telephone, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-given telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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